



UU Report form - Erasmus 2019-2020

faculty/college	Faculty of Social Sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
name study programme	Exchange

destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
how did you travel to your destination?	By plane
name university abroad	University of New South Wales (UNSW)
start date	16 / 09 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	12 / 02 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

I found the application process for UNSW (which is entirely online) very clear. However, allow some time, as you will need to buy an Overseas Health Insurance (OSHC) and Visa. However, to apply for -at least- your visa, you need your Certificate of Enrolment, which you receive from UNSW. There are a lot of little steps in the application process, but it requires quite some time as both UNSW and your Visa require documents! So, it really is a step-by-step process... However; not difficult! You can follow the steps from the UNSW sites (endeavour) and they really are quite clear and helpful! Also, their international office responds quite fast (in my opinion), so if you experience any difficulties you can always email them!

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I found the counselling and support very good from Utrecht University! I had to contact them a several times in the beginning, due to the change of exchange destination... They helped me out great and were very fast to reply to my emails! During my exchange, they also emailed me a couple of times regarding the bushfires in New South Wales, which I think was very good! They really seem to care about their students and will think about opportunities with you in case you need advice regarding your exchange programme.

academic preparation

I did not need any academic preparation really... I actually found the level of education lower, compared to Utrecht University. However, be aware that you often need like 1 or 2 years of credits before you take certain courses, and if you would like to do higher level/difficulty courses, then it is quite hard to get in; you really need to have a course that allows you to have the basic knowledge and you need to give proof of that via endeavour!

language preparation

I did not need/have any language preparation. However, I can imagine it being handy if you would watch some telly at home without subtitles (and of course English audio). It can also help to start thinking in English and maybe even talk in English with your friends or family. I sometimes found the 'switch' quite difficult; as in; I thought in Dutch but had to talk in English. However, I do not think the level of English was extremely high or anything... Actually, a lot of students you will meet are international students as well, and they probably have the same level of English language skills as we do in general.

finances

Prepare for this! I found living in Sydney very expensive. Expect 2-3x the amount you would spend in the Netherlands (even with a good exchange rate from Euro to Australian Dollar). I prepared by saving a lot and using my student loan (maximally!).



STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	<p>At the beginning, I found out that there was an actual difference between Exchange students and Study Abroad Students (if I remember correctly). This was a bit weird at the beginning, especially as both types of students have different ways of doing things and there are different offices, etc. Also, different ‘perks’! So, keep that in mind. Also, do your research beforehand in case of the Orientation Day activities! I found that UNSW did not provide a lot of information about this, and I even missed out one of them (and missed a good goody bag because of this). However, the rest was managed very good and I did not have any issues regarding the programme itself.</p> <p>Education-wise though, I had to choose a different course during my summer term (January term), as they suddenly cancelled one course. I could however still sign up for other courses, but keep in mind that they do not guarantee anything regarding their courses, even if the course is in a manual or booklet! So my advice; choose your courses wisely and if you really want/need to do a course, then do these ones in the ‘normal terms’ (Term 1, 2 or 3), and choose something nice but not especially necessary for the summer term or winter term (if you would do this though ☺)</p>
academic quality of education activities	<p>As said before, I found the quality/level of education quite low. I also did not have any final exams, which I found interesting. I had to write quite a lot of essays instead. However, I know some friends that actually did have a lot of exams, so it is handy to check this in your syllabus at the beginning of the course in case you want to do some travelling for example (no exams = 1-2 weeks off earlier!).</p>
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	<p>I had to go to the international office once, at UNSW, because I had to change my course for the summer term. They helped me out fine and sent me booklets etc. to try to help me with my choices. They also looked at several opportunities with me and they were able to provide more information and advice on that, so that was helpful as well!</p>
transfer of credits	<p>I did not yet get to do this, as my Exchange programme just ended one week ago.</p>

STUDENT LIFE	
welcome & orientation programme	<p>We had an official welcome by the director of UNSW and there was an O-week (orientation week, for all students!). However, as said before; make sure to note down/do research on the o-week activities, as UNSW is not always super clear on their communication regarding (in my opinion) o-week, so I missed out on the goody bag... However, o-week and the international activities they organised were great opportunities to meet other (international) students (I believe this was organised by ARC; their student association).</p>
accommodation	<p>I found it quite easy to get a room, but it is expensive! I could not get a room on campus, so I had to look further. I already booked an Airbnb from home (NL), and I booked this for my entire stay in Sydney. However, I would not recommend this, unless you have seen the place before or know the people. I did not like the room/house I was in, so I ended up moving again. Fortunately, I found accommodation really close to Uni, and I found it quite fast as well!</p>
leisure & culture	<p>I think the City of Sydney is great! They organise a lot of festivities/activities. Also, Sydney has a lot of beaches to offer, the one closest to Uni is ‘Coogee Beach’, and it’ll take you like half an hour to get there (walking that is). Of course, you have Bondi as well, but that will take you almost an hour from Uni!</p> <p>Also, ARC organises quite some events and they have a lot of clubs at UNSW! So, make sure to join some of</p>



them as you meet new people and experiences.
suggestions/tips
I joined ARC and went on several trips from the Wandersoc (basically doing walking tracks) and Arc Goes To. They were great, as I got to meet new people and I got to see nature in/around Sydney! So, if you like that; I would definitely recommend! Also, I would recommend booking an Airbnb, hotel or hostel for your first couple of days/first week, so you can look for other accommodation and do some viewings (if you are not able to get campus living).

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, I had a great time in Sydney and I had plenty of time to travel as well... So, I ended up travelling across the whole of Australia and I got to see so much! I must say that I sometimes had quite a hard time because of the enormous distance between the Netherlands and Sydney, and there is also a time difference of 8-10 hours (depends on summer/wintertime), so it could be difficult to contact friends and family at home. However, I found it all worth the effort in the end and I personally learned so much from being so far away! And I believe Sydney in particular is then a very good city to be in and explore Australia from there on!
do you have any additional advice or comments?
Just keep in mind that going to Australia requires quite some effort and that applying at UNSW could take up some time; so, start your application as early as possible! Also, make sure to save enough money as living (and travelling) is quite expensive in Oz!



UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

Faculty/college:	FSW
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	(Cognitive) Psychology

Destination city & country	SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	12-02-2018
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	20-07-2018

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The preparation and placement was an easy-to-follow process. After I attended the meeting for students wanting to travel abroad, I knew enough to apply for the application process. The only thing that was annoying, was that I had no clue when I would be accepted (or denied) by the abroad university. Also, only after I applied to the foreign university, I learned that I needed an English certification for Australian universities. I would've been so much easier if I knew this in time.

Counselling/support at home university:

Support from home university was fine. As far as they could help me, they did help me. Probably they could gain more information from UNSW, about their application process.

Academic preparation:

No relevant academic preparation

Language preparation:

Obligatory language test (TOEFL in my case). I scored 112 out of 120 easily, so in my opinion it's just some extra money thrown away.

Finances:

Finances were like I expected them: high living costs in Australia. I didn't have much problems though.

Study/placement abroad period



Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):
I think the content was generally easier than in the Netherlands. However, they did have more assignments and practical tasks to engage in the material. I thought this was an interesting way to master the material.
Academic quality of education/placement activities:
The academic quality of the education at UNSW is fine. It can be noticed that 'hbo' and 'universiteit' (two different levels of education in the Netherlands) are merged in foreign countries. Like I said before: generally easier, but more assignments.
Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:
Sadly, this was horrible before arrival. I requested extra assignments for my Honours program, by email, as Dutch Honours students. However, I either got forwarded to someone else, or I did not receive any answer. In the end this resulted in me not finishing all necessary Honours components. I definitely expected UNSW to be more supportive. After arrival, all support points were clearly communicated. However, in my case this was a bit too late.
Transfer of credits:
Not known yet
Student life
Welcome/orientation programme:
Fun and engaging. They offer O-week, a week full of activities and club events. Joining a club at this university is very nice. I loved the Outdoors Club and had a great time.
Accommodation:
Expensive, but good accommodation (off-campus). I stood in a hostel for the first two weeks, while looking for a room. In the end I found something nice at flatmates.com
Leisure/culture:
See orientation program: clubs are worth your time!
Suggestions/tips:
Join a club and go to O-week!
Conclusions
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Yes, the clubs (that I joined) were awesome, the country is beautiful and the level of education is decent. However, be aware of the costs!
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:
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UU Report form - Erasmus 2017-2018

Faculty/college:	Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Psychology

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of New South Wales
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	9-7-2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	1-12-2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

While you have to prepare and take care of a lot of forms etc. my home International Office was really helpful in putting a list together of the most important things that need to happen. By following this I didn't experience too much stress which was really nice. A tip which I found really useful is that your motivation is more important than your grades. Of course, they have to be around the requested grade, but if you really focus on why you want to go to your desired university and what courses you want to follow, your chances of placement will be higher.

Counselling/support at home university:

This was great. I emailed my home International Office about a bunch of stuff several times and every time they reacted really fast and answered my question clearly.

Academic preparation:

I worried a lot about my grades, and if they would be enough for acceptance because I was a little bit under the required GPA. Thankfully, I found your motivation more important. Next to that, I didn't further prepare academically for the university abroad because I followed courses that were easier than the ones I had just followed at home. Also, Dutch academic standards at universities are quite high so when going abroad to Australia I found the overall academic expectations are a bit lower.

Language preparation:

Because most courses I followed at home were partially in English this was quite easy and I didn't need to prepare anything. Also English standards for Dutch people are generally quite high so in Australia you'll probably be fine.



Finances:

Finances can be quite hard when going to Australia, because everything is more expensive. Make sure you have enough savings on hand before and you also probably have to put your student loan on maximum for a while. Thankfully, my abroad uni had made a list of some of the expenses you need to keep in mind which made it easier to prepare for all the finances.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Before acceptance the abroad uni already makes you choose your 1st and 2nd choices in courses, which makes it really easy to enrol. Also, the online-program in which you had to choose was really easy to use and made it easy to see which courses you could or couldn't enrol in.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The courses were generally a bit easier than the ones in follow at home, but that's also partially because a followed some first year courses and introduction courses.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Support at the host uni was really helpful especially during the enrolling process when I was still at home. Everything that I was required to do to enrol properly before and after arrival they emailed several times to make sure I didn't forget about it.

Transfer of credits:

I didn't have to do anything myself to make sure credits got transferred properly. Also, the grades you get at UNSW will probably turn out a little bit higher when transferred which is a nice extra.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The host International Office organised a lot of fun events before the start of the semester, which was really nice to get to know a lot of the other exchange students.

Accommodation:

There is university accommodation, but that is really expensive compared to what kind of room you get for it. Therefore I choose to not do that and look for my own room off campus. There are a lot of different facebook pages available for the exchange students where people post when they have rooms available and where you can post when you need a room. Just remember you probably will have to share a room and sometimes the rent can be as much as double what you pay for your Dutch room.

Leisure/culture:

If you plan your courses right you can have a lot of free time and spend a lot of that making trips and doing fun activities. There are a lot of things to do around Sydney which are really fun for day trips. Especially Sundays are really nice in Sydney, because public transport is really cheap.

Suggestions/tips:



Make sure you have nice room/housemates, because they can be your main support system and it is nice to be able to come home and relax and have nice people around.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes, I definitely would recommend UNSW. It is a great university and the courses where really nice. Sydney is also a great city and this is lots of amazing stuff to do.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

I don't have any more information to give.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

Faculty/college:	Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences
Level:	bachelor
Name degree programme:	Bachelor Psychologie

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution	UNSW
Purpose of exchange	study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15/02/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	1/08/2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

I had to write a letter of motivation to be selected for the study abroad. In that letter I wrote down the courses I planned to take.

Counselling/support at home university:

The counselling and support is very helpful. You always get answers to your questions and emails are answered within days.

Academic preparation:

If you are fine at University of Utrecht, you will be fine at UNSW. No preparation needed if you ask me.

Language preparation:

If you can speak moderate English you should be fine.

Another language that might come in handy if mastered is Mandarin.

When it comes to Australian English though I have to warn you. I found their accent very hard to understand. The first 2 months I couldn't understand two thirds of what some Australians said. North American, South American, European, Russian and Asian English accents have never really been a problem for me, but African and Australian is very tough to understand. The Ozzies like to speak very fast while mumbling, making three different words sound like 1 new word.

Finances:

Sydney is ... expensive. 1 dollar is equal to about 0,75 euro. Some noodle bar will charge you 12 Dollar for a dish. Fish and chips will be 18 Dollar. Beers 4-7 dollar (also in the supermarket, unless you buy 30 cans at once). Buying food for one day at the Coles supermarket (equivalent of Albert



Heijn) will cost at least 10 Dollar, but it will more likely be 20. Ice-cream will be 4 Dollar a scoop. And some simple chips will be 4 Dollar.

A hoodie will be 30-40 Dollar. A tent 30. A burger 12. A diving trip to the great barrier reef 250. A night in a hostel will be 22.

You will spend 200-300 Dollar a week for simple accommodation.

Driving public transport will cost you approximately 2-3.5 Dollar per one way ride. But after 15 Dollar of spending the rest of that day will be free.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

Studying in Sydney was not very different from studying in Utrecht. Courses at both universities are divided in lectures and seminars. In these seminars you'll have to give presentations and prepare for written reports. The only big difference is, that the academic year is divided in 2 parts in Sydney and in 4 parts in Utrecht. At UNSW you will have 4 courses over the period of one semester, whereas in Utrecht you'll have 2 courses per quarter.

There have been plans however at UNSW in Sydney to get rid of this old way of organisation of the academic year. They want to change towards a trimester system, in which the year is divided in 3 parts. A ridiculous Idea if you ask me, since it makes their university highly incompatible with other university programmes when it comes to exchange agreements.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

This is very comparable to the University of Utrecht.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

If you send them an email with bureaucratic problems they will respond and help you solve it.

They will not help you to find accommodation though.

Transfer of credits:

I am not sure yet how this works.

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme was very cool. UNSW does not have fraternities. Their colleges are the things that resemble our fraternities the most.

Instead of fraternities they have a huge amount of societies, which will present themselves to you in their semester 1 in small booths all over the campus. Most of them are free, but some cost money. I will list a few down here so that you might get an impression:

- UNSW Windsurfing Surfing & Sailing Club (these guys have nice surf get togethers and cheap surfboard rentals)
- Waterski
- UNSW gameplayers



- Disney
- Korean
- German
- League of Legends
- NUTS (theatre)
- Poker
- Ultimate frisbee
- Etc...

Further there are two decent bars: The Greenhouse and The Whitehouse. Their main bar the Roundhouse is currently under construction. I did not really drink much alcohol in Sydney however. It was just too expensive and there were just too many other cool things to do.

Accommodation:

My first tip would be: get a room in one of the on-campus accommodations. They offer single rooms with prices ranging between 200-600 Dollar a week. This often includes breakfast and dinner. (go for the 200 ones of course). You will have to apply very early, since most of these things will be full superfast. I applied for international house, where I had to pay a fee of 40 Dollar to be considered and they did not even send me an email to turn me down. I heard from another student that the bureaucrats of international House are disliked by many. But there have been people who skipped the process of applying online. They just walked in there, asked for a room and got it. So this might be an option for you. You'll just need luck.

Otherwise I would recommend you to use gumtree.com.au to find accommodation. UNSW will not help you in this endeavour. Rent is paid by the week and 200-300 dollars is the cheapest you will find. This will often be a shared room within a shared house. Single rooms are very hard to find and expensive. But it is not impossible. I found a single room too in Maroubra.

It is not very hard to find accommodation in general. Just book a hostel for your first 1-2 weeks and you should be fine. Don't aim for a perfect room. It is not worth the hassle if you are only there for 1 semester.

Leisure/culture:

I would recommend the following thing:

Get a room near Bondi or Maroubra. The beaches there are beautiful there and they are not too far from Campus. Coogee is also very nice, but surfing is not allowed at their beach. Maroubra is cheaper, less touristy and crowded and has higher waves. Bondi has a very nice vibe and is vibrant, but it is quite full and relatively expensive. Also the waves tend to be smaller.

Further I would recommend going to the following places:

- Manly beach
- Opera house
- Circular Quay
- Bondi to Coogee walk
- Figure 8 pools
- Cockatoo Island



- CBD in general
- Internet Café 'Super New Generation' at Anzac parade (if you like gaming).

Suggestions/tips:

Go get your Open Water Diver SCUBA licence in Sydney. You'll be allowed to dive till 18 meters with it and you'll be able to go SCUBA diving at the Great Barrier Reef later on.

There is an unbelievably cheap SCUBA shop in Coogee: 'Pro Dive Coogee'. The people are very nice and some of them speak German. They offer a 3-day course for only 150 Dollar. That is crazy. Other shops will ask you 500 for the same thing. I did 4 shore dives and 2 pool dives with them. There I saw a huge bull ray and a baby giant cuttlefish.

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

YES. Awesome city. Australians are very helpful and kind in general. Nice Campus. Nice societies. Nice fellow students. Awesome beaches. Great surf. Cool country to explore.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Yeah. The weather is very good in their summer. But their winter is very comparable to the Dutch autumn: Lots of rain and cold temperatures (5-19 Celsius, but almost never under 0).

Another thing is the following: Selection of courses is an extremely tedious process at UNSW.

First you will choose the courses you want. Then the office of UNSW will have to approve. They want the courses to be fitting to your background. If they approve the faculties have to approve as well. They can still deny access to the courses after main office approved. If any of the two do not approve you will have to search for a new course. This whole process is not automated, so their staff has to go through all 'applications' manually, so it can take some time.

Further the home students are processed before the exchange students. So it can happen that the course you wanted is already full before you could even apply yourself.

I have seen other exchange students, who still not had 4 courses already one week into the semester. When you did manage to get your four courses though you will be presented schedule. You can then go to the red building and change your schedule so that you might have a more pleasant one. This option however is not clearly explained to you. So you have to take matters in your own hand and be fast.

Utrecht University clearly has organized this better.

Also your student card functions as a key, letting you into the buildings of your faculties. This is nice, since the free computers in the library can be quite annoying: they will automatically kick you out after 1 to 2 hours of activity.



UU Report form - Erasmus 2016-2017

Faculty/college:	Social sciences
Level:	X bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Educational sciences

Destination city & country	Sydney, Australia
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	University of New South Wales (UNSW)
Purpose of exchange	X study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	4-07-2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	26-01-2017

Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

It was quite a hassle/ a lot of work to complete the application. Australia has some specific rules (for example: compulsory local healthcare insurance). You need this insurance before being able to apply for a visa etc. So; make sure to start early with entire application process, because it will take some time to do as well as a lot of 'waiting for response time'

Counselling/support at home university:

The support was great! If you had questions or needed something, the international office made sure they sent you the documents or answered your questions quickly. The UNSW asks for language proficiency proof. The international office just sent me one, instead of me having to complete an expensive exam.

Academic preparation:

You already have to pick courses before leaving (you're allowed to change them over there though). I first picked a couple of courses which suited me perfectly, although they appeared to be postgraduate, so I wasn't allowed to do them. Make sure that you are eligible for the courses you pick. If you're not sure, you can just try to apply, make sure that you state yourself clearly in the 'motivation section'. You can even ask teachers here to send an email to the UNSW to state that you do have the prerequisite knowledge for a certain course (if you can't proof it yourself)

Language preparation:

Before leaving to Australia I was slightly nervous about my English proficiency. This wasn't necessary at all. I reckon the English proficiency of (most) Dutch students is sufficient to get around well. Also, when you're 'placed' in another (English speaking) country, your level of



proficiency will increase quickly. I did have some struggles writing my first essay, but after writing a couple, even that was pretty easy. If you would like to practice something, I would mainly practice speaking and writing.

Finances:

Australia is an expensive country, especially Sydney. Keep in mind that housing is at least double, but most likely triple the amount that you would pay in the Netherlands. The displayed rent prices on i.e. websites is often weekly. I was very glad when I first saw the amount of rent I would have to pay, until I figured out that it was weekly...

Groceries are more expensive as well, but if you search well, you will find some great deals. If you can bring toiletries with you, it will save you some money. You should purchase sunscreen in Australia.

On Sundays, you can use the public transport for free! If you look through groupon, uber eats, apps of local restaurants, you will find many opportunities to get some free stuff.

Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

It is all pretty clear. They have course guides with all the information you need, they'll make sure all your accounts are up and running (they use moodle instead of blackboard, different email etc.) I sometimes had some struggles finding what I need, but the professors are helpful as well (via email/ in person). It always depends on the courses you pick, but in general the difficulty is somewhat the same as in the Netherlands.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality was good. It might feel a little bit more like our 'high school'. Many deadlines throughout the semester, even some small tests during lectures. This does make you study in advance, which is useful. The essays/presentations challenged you to apply the theories of the course, they helped me achieving a high level of understanding. The only remark I would like to make is: the finals were mainly reproduction questions, which I wasn't used to anymore.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

The UNSW really is an international university, thousand(s) of foreign students. They start off with a meeting where all the different institutions present themselves (healthcare, dentist, security, international office and many more). During this meeting you'll learn how to contact each institution. I just walked into the international office twice, and they were able to help me in a matter of minutes. They will help you wherever they can.

Transfer of credits:

This was easy. The UNSW sends your transcript of records to Utrecht University, they will transfer the marks to the Dutch 'standard' and they'll send you these marks in a letter (and register them in Osiris)

Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:



The UNSW organises an O(rientation)week, which consists out of dozens of activities. These activities can be used to meet people. The UNSW has almost an endless amount of associations, literally for almost anything there is an association (from surfing to drinking tea). Also, several on-campus-living-accommodations organise some activities as well.

Accommodation:

I decided to stay on campus, it is slightly more expensive than many off-campus accommodations. But I am glad I did. Other people had to first fly to Sydney and then find a place to sleep, I just moved in straight away. Also, my place became on the places where we would meet up regularly, because it was easily reachable for everyone, benefits of living on campus.

Besides this, I didn't have to handle unfair/annoying landlords (as some of my friends had to).

Leisure/culture:

I really enjoyed the Australian culture. Less stressful and punctual than the Dutch culture. And on top of that, it is a western country, so the culture shock isn't too big.

In my leisure time, I decided to learn to surf, go out with friends, work out, go to the beach, visit Sydney, go to all the zoo's, whale watching etc etc.... There literally was an endless amount of possible activities in Sydney itself, but definitely don't forget to visit Sydney's surroundings (blue mountains, the prettiest beaches anywhere you go). I decided to do a roadtrip from Sydney-Melbourne-great ocean road and one from Airlie beach (Whitsunday islands)-Sydney. They were amazing, Australia is exceptionally pretty.

Suggestions/tips:

Try to find an Australian (local) friend! The university is so internationally orientated and most O week activities are with other international students. This leads to you mainly meeting other international students, which is fun, but I am very glad that I found an Australian friend during a seminar. He introduced me to his group of friends and they welcomed me in the group, which was a wonderful experience (and really helpful for your English. Mingling in with a group of locals is the real test of your proficiency, the Australian accent might cause some struggles).

Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would definitely recommend going to the UNSW. The UNSW is internationally orientated, so they do have all the facilities that you might need. You have so many opportunities to ask for help if something is going on or bothering you.

Besides this, Australia itself is an amazing and pretty country.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Enjoy it to the fullest!